

REMARKS

Claims 1–21 are pending in the present application.

Claims 1–16 were amended for clarity.

Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 103 (Obviousness)

Claims 1–4, 9–12 and 17–21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over “Admitted Prior Art” in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,886,543 to *Marin*. Claims 5–6 and 13–14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over “Admitted Prior Art” in view of *Marin* and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,306,963 to *Leak et al.* Claims 7–8 and 15–16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over “Admitted Prior Art” in view of *Marin* and further in view of F.J. Hill et al, *Computer Aided Logical Design With Emphasis On VLSI*. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

In *ex parte* examination of patent applications, the Patent Office bears the burden of establishing a *prima facie* case of obviousness. MPEP § 2142, p. 2100-133 (8th ed. rev. 3 August 2005). Absent such a *prima facie* case, the applicant is under no obligation to produce evidence of nonobviousness. *Id.*

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met: First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, and not based on applicant’s disclosure. *Id.*

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Independent claims 1, 9 and 17 each recite that high-to-low transitions in the second line driver enable signal are delayed differently than high-to-low transitions in the first line driver enable signal (by not introducing the second delay to the first line driver enable signal). Such a feature is not found in the cited references.

Therefore, the rejection of claims 1–21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 has been overcome.

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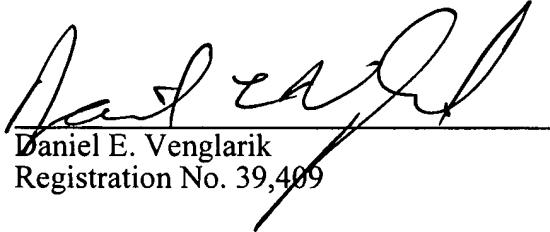
If any issues arise, or if the Examiner has any suggestions for expediting allowance of this Application, the Applicant respectfully invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below or at *dvenglarik@davismunck.com*.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees connected with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0208.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 10-24-05



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